

POINT THREE



The TocH magazine October 1976 10p



POINT THREE

Editor : Sue McWilliam

Designer : Michael F Hill MSTD

Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911) Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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Front cover. Spectacular scoop for Toc H: Vicki Harris, Miss United Kingdom (1975/76) spent a day at the Dumbarton Summer Play Festival. Here she lends a hand to the Fire Brigade team in the tug-of-war. In spite of her efforts the firemen lost to the police! Organised in conjunction with the Dumbarton Borough Social Work Department and the Community Education Service, the play activities took place over four weeks in Dumbarton, Renton, Bonhill, Alexandria, Helensburgh and Gairlochhead.

Photo: David R Mitchell



Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird-watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House: the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

VIEWPOINT

It seems strange that a land as peaceful and beautiful as Ireland should also harbour so much conflict. Its people in the south are still able to live at nature's pace, as yet unhurried by a busy industrialised world. Ireland is, as the advertisement has it 'the one place where there is still time'.

I arrived on holiday in Cork the morning after the British ambassador and his colleague were murdered. If there is one thing worth recounting from 'my holiday story' it is the genuine shock and horror which ordinary country people expressed about this crime.

But as the *Irish Times* said, 'No matter how sincere the apologies or how deep the grief, the nation's self-respect will continue to suffer until Ireland, North and South, forgoes — and is seen to forgo — every conceivable ambiguity and ambivalence concerning the use of violence as a political weapon. Everybody must search his conscience for any sins of omission or commission which in any way create a climate wherein violence can occur and murder be seen as an occupational hazard'.

A climate which abhors violence is obviously essential to any Irish solution. Bravo to the Women's Peace Movement for daring to take a stand, to Betty Williams, Mairead Corrigan and Pat Knox. They will need all the support and prayers they can get if they are to keep up momentum and stiffen morale over the coming Winter. Should you want to write, their address is: Women's Peace Movement, 8 Upper Crescent, Belfast 7.

Their leadership is vitally needed, the more so because other ostensible leaders of the community have failed to give much direction. In particular the churches' performance has been unimpressive and has been sorely criticised over the past seven years.

The established churches have simply not made enough effort to bridge sectarian barriers. Both Protestant and Catholic seem too afraid of compromise and too interested in their own preservation to risk much for the goal of uniting the whole Christian church. True, the task is not simple, but there are still far

too many clergy and congregations who are unwilling to share themselves or their worship with other denominations. As somebody in the North said to me: 'It will be a long time before Christianity comes back here'.

One is forced to the conclusion that the Church is failing God and the people. It is certainly not meeting their needs. Many who, one suspects, would sympathise with Christianity steer clear of the churches because of the dangerous implications of joining one narrowly affiliated sect. The church has been considerably discredited and the credibility of its Christian faith is now at stake.

It may well be that the institutional structure of the church is now an obstacle to Christian unity. It may be time to step outside the institutions to find new ways of building Christian communities on an ecumenical footing. Knocking the system for the sake of it is no answer, but in this case the system merely seems to keep people apart. Far more hopeful are the ecumenical ventures such as the Corrymeela Community, whose members minister to people of every political and religious belief, in the troubled areas of Belfast and in their community/holiday/retreat centre on the Antrim coast. Led by a clergyman, the community makes no secret of its Christian motivation but recognises the need to build on what unites people, not on what divides them.

It would be great to see the churches enlightened enough to appoint ecumenical team ministries of Catholics and Protestants working together from their homes, social clubs or wherever people can most easily reach them.

The church alone cannot solve the complicated mess of Northern Ireland, but it can do much to break down barriers among strangers. People are being killed and maimed every other day. Perhaps Ireland is the one place where there isn't time. It rests with us all to work out how the Christian faith can be most effectively expressed to inspire those who so desperately need its sense of hope and joy, its power of reconciliation.

S McW

Members accept a four-fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points — to think fairly.

HITHERE! It's project time

Life can get pretty hairy on a Toc H project! Especially when you've got to cook your own supper – and eat it! Paul Thompson was among the volunteers who spent a week on the glorious Norfolk coast at the Holme Nature Reserve near Hunstanton: helping to protect the reserve and its wild life from sea erosion caused by the relentless tides of the Norfolk coast.



Photo: West Norfolk Photographics

Photo: Kent Messenger



Ann Goodburn aged 17, reads a story to Clive Rogers and Hilary Knell during the South East Kent District's holiday for handicapped children at Towers School, Kennington, Kent. Ann, who hopes to take up nursing, was one of 15 volunteers under the leadership of Nigel and Margaret Adams who came from all over the country to take part in this special holiday scheme, where each child has his or her own volunteer 'friend' to look after him for the week.

Boots on and time to get back to it: two volunteers, Janice Pettet (left) and Pip Mooney, on a conservation project in Derbyshire. They were helping to restore a late 18th century corn mill in Cromford, under the auspices of the Arkwright Society. Sir Richard Arkwright developed Cromford into one of the world's first factory communities in the 18th century.

Photo: Raymonds





Photos: David R Mitchell

Up with the Brucehill Dynamos! It's the opening day of the Brucehill festivities in Dunbartonshire.



Everyone agreed that Vicki Harris was a great sport, joining in all the Dumbarton activities – even the highland dancing!



Photo: Manchester Evening News

Left: Off to the seaside! Some of the 200 children from the Manchester area who enjoyed a holiday this summer at the Rhyl Toc H Children's Camp, in North Wales. Here, Heather Oldham of Salford and Yvonne Bell of Moss Side, Manchester, have a parting word with the Mayor of Salford, Councillor Ken Edwards (left) and the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Kenneth Franklin. In the background is Jack Gower, one of the founder members of the Manchester Children's Camp Committee which has been organising these holidays for 27 years.

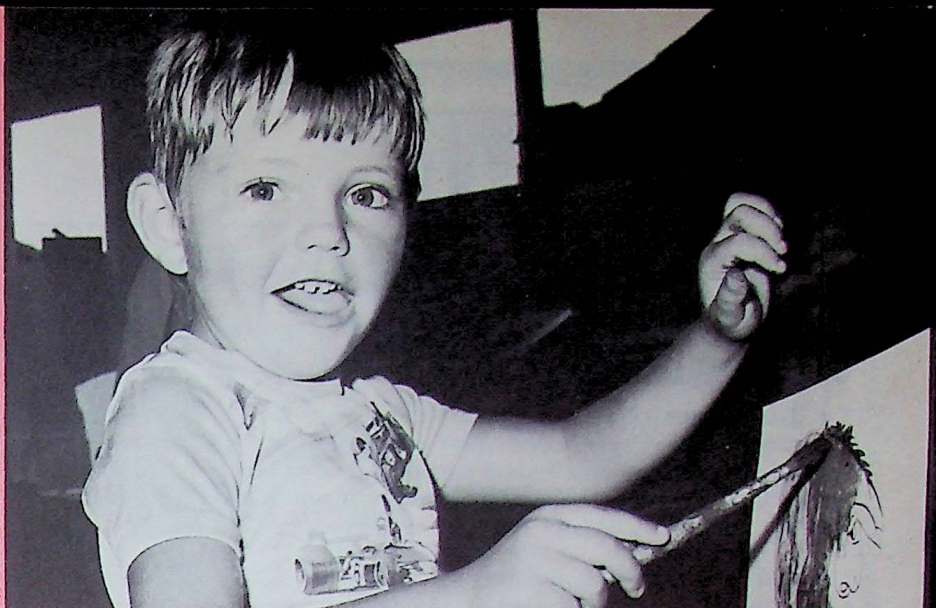
Below: Another happy group on holiday at the Toc H camp at Rhyl, this time from Bolton.



Photo: L J Dighton, Bolton Evening News



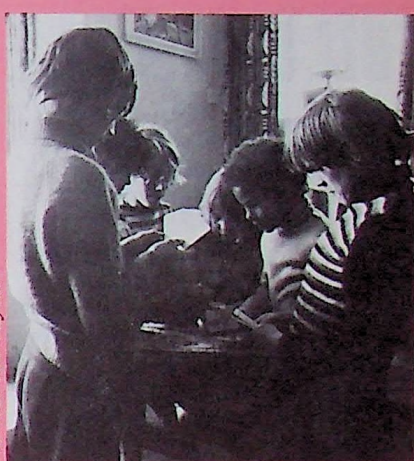
Photos: Cadishead and Irlam Guardian



About 100 children took part in the playscheme organised by Toc H and the Eccles Neighbourhood Society on Crossfields Estate, Barton. Taking his eye off the canvas for just a moment is budding artist Ian MacKay who was heard to say as he returned to his easel: 'I'm painting a sad donkey'. For Mark McLoughlin and Mark Newman (left) it's fun of a different kind with a wellie-throwing contest.



Photos: Ian Taylor



Left and above: Fun of all kinds at Colsterdale for a weekend party of children from Bracken Hall, Huddersfield.



Photo: Chris Tennant

Exotic line-up for the knobbly knees contest at Colsterdale. We reckon that John Biggerstaff (left) deserved a consolation prize for looking so non plussed by the whole thing! The party came from a workshop for the mentally handicapped in Wellingborough to spend a week at the Toc H farmhouse at Colsterdale, near Masham, Yorks.



Photo: Derby Evening Telegraph

It's all fun – except for the washing up! Some of the 61 boys on the Toc H Derby Boys' Camp at Osmaston Polo Ground, Ashbourne. The camp has been running for 52 years and apparently most of the tents are the original ones!

NEWSPOINT

GOING UP

You'll go up in the fashion league with these stylish new Toc H singlets. Wear them by themselves or over a blouse or shirt. They're well made and at £1.25 each post paid, very good value for money. Available now in red, navy or light orange with the words 'TOC H UNITED' in contrasting colours, or in white with 'MAKE FRIENDS WITH TOC H' in orange.

Three sizes: small (34"-36"), medium (36"-38") and large (38"-40"). Send your order with remittance, stating size and colour (also state second choice) to Publications Office, Toc H HQ, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT. Allow ten days for delivery.

(Our model is Bridget Vetter, joint winner of the Toc H T-shirt competition with her slogan 'Toc H United'.)



FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR NORTH WALES

The North Wales Area Team has issued a clear challenge to members 'to restore branch life'. At their training weekend at Alison House in June and at another meeting in July, they decided:

- 1 All branches are charged to contact the heads of services in their localities with a view to making Toc H better known, and to provide support for services which are socially important: eg Chief of Police, Chairman of Magistrates, Chief Officer of Local Authority, Director of Social Services, Chief Probation Officer, MP etc.
- 2 To attempt a Guest Night in the old tradition when an influential speaker is present, inviting not only other branches, but those outside the Movement, with a view to expanding branch life. New mottos: *Get out together* and *With U in Toc H we can widen our touch*.
- 3 Although there are reservations in some Districts as to the efficiency of District Executives, members are encouraged to foster such innovations for day to day administration and if desired to continue the old type district meetings (possibly in conjunction with 1 and 2) for the general social service contact.
- 4 To investigate in each district the possibility of forming Groups near the main base hospital, which probably offers the only chance in the area of meeting mixed nationalities. The new base hospital at Bodelwyddan (Clwyd) due to open shortly, Bangor, and Maelor (Wrexham) are likely places.



Photo: Kentish Express

A night of 'Midsummer Madness' organised by members of Ashford and Kennington Branch, Kent, enabled Eileen Aldridge to use her loaf when it came to meeting a certain Kentish Sheik! Prize-winners at this summer fancy dress party were George Read as 'Football Results' and Lynn Mummery as 'Miss Dairy Tops' (the cat that got the cream?). During the evening the engagement was announced between George Ayto of Hythe Men's Branch and Hildegard Eugene of Hythe Women -- both over 70. Congratulations!

STEPPING OUT

Northampton Branch members were pleased with the results of their display at the Borough Show in July. 'The display', writes Ted Curry, *Point Three* correspondent, 'was a completely new venture for the branch and was designed to attract, to inform and to enroll new members. With the enthusiastic and willing help of members in the District the show was manned from start to finish and although it earned no prizes it was considered successful, judging by the number of enquiries and comments we had from the public, some of which will need to be followed up.'

TAKE YOUR PARTNERS!

You are invited to a Ceilidh and Folk Night on Saturday 23 October at 7.30 pm to be held at Talbot House, Trinity Square, when members of this year's FOLK '76 weekend at Dor Knap will be entertaining you and encouraging you to join in a few hectic folk dances! Bring with you your best voices, some dancing shoes, and if you play a guitar, flute, fiddle, or anything, bring it along too. We aim to get a few floor singers to help us out with the show.

WHITSTABLE WHIRL

Whitstable Women's Branch, Kent, has been very busy this year, as we hear from branch secretary Doris Hitchen. Doris says 'we are lucky to have an average age of around 55; some of us are retired and are therefore free during the day'.

Every Thursday the branch serves evening drinks to Ladesfield Old People's Home; members also man the over-60s rest centre in the town, and act as escorts on the town coach which takes daily parties of the disabled and housebound to the sea. They also teach pottery and basket-work to the blind and have been very energetic in helping to raise money for the town's talking newspaper for the blind, also for a Health Centre minibus and for a kidney machine in a holiday caravan.

With some justification, the branch believes that these, and other activities, are putting Toc H on the map in their part of Kent.

WELCOME

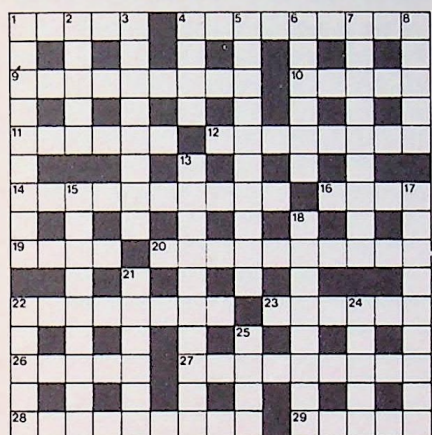
Photo: Wiltshire Newspapers, Swindon



Marksmen from Mark 16, Swindon, Wilts, and the 18th Swindon Toc H Scouts joined forces on a float in the Thames-down Carnival procession in June. The

float, built by the Marksmen themselves, did not win a prize but had the distinction of appearing on the front page of the Swindon Evening Advertiser.

CROSSWORD



By David Clifton of Thame, Oxon

Across

- 1 Meet this gang in Shang-hai, perhaps (5)
- 4 Cats can be, according to Eliot (9)
- 9 In the best seat (9)
- 10 Book of the Celts (5)
- 11 'The beauty of - is slain' (1 Samuel) (6)
- 12 When they said, 'Go west, young man,' this is where the lad went (8)
- 14 Eaten at a moveable feast? (6,4)
- 16 Hard cheese! (4)
- 19 Drivers need them (4)
- 20 You'd find them in the valley of decision (10)
- 22 Maybe a native of Ammonia! (8)
- 23 To get a colour in the rain dig over the garden (6)
- 26 Snap! (5)
- 27 Promenade at the seaside (9)
- 28 They have all the directions (9)
- 29 The medical men round the ordnance survey are a lot of rubbish (5)

Down

- 1 Peter's din might make him commander-in-chief (9)
- 2 Come in, and begin to amuse (5)
- 3 Projected through a security check, perhaps (8)
- 4 Ride him, cowboy! (4)
- 5 This is one way to get to be someone in the city! (10)
- 6 These ways could get you on - or arrested! (6)
- 7 Petrified - like 22 across (9)
- 8 Light fantastic (5)
- 13 Perhaps Mata Hari might get SUD secrets (10)
- 15 Romeo's mat could be in the bath (5,4)
- 17 Finds out that 29 across is mixed up with vice? (9)
- 18 First a street and a road - to the Criterion (8)
- 21 In Africa - and in the news (6)
- 22 Head snake goes with chicken - dandy! (5)
- 24 Caterpillar's ultimate ambition? (5)
- 25 Takes off primates (4)



Mrs Emily Clarke, eldest member of Eastbourne Women's Branch, cuts the cake at the branch's 40th birthday party. Also (from left): Mrs Ada Creasy, chairman; the Mayor, Councillor Scott; Rev John Hull; Sir Sydney Caffyn.

Photo: Eastbourne Gazette

The following branches elected new members during July and August:

- 7 - Eastfield (j) Group
- 5 - Wem (j)
- 4 - Manchester District
- 3 - Biggleswade (w), Boston (m), East Lancs District, Inner London District, Surrey District
- 2 - Bletchley (w), Coomb (j), Deganwy (w), Fleet (j), RHHL (j), Sevenoaks District
- 1 - Attleborough (m), Boston (w), Bristol Action (j) Group, Bristol Central (w), Buckingham (m), Canterbury (m), Cardiff District, Central Overseas, Chalfont (w), Cleveland District Branch, Clitheroe (m), Conway (m), Croydon (j), Deeside (w), Eastleigh (j), Evenwood (j) Group, Gloucester District, Hartley Wintney (m), Hatherleigh (m), Knowle (m), Milford-on-Sea (j), Milton & Eastney (m), Mold (m), Moseley (j), Nottingham City (m), Penn (w), Pickering (j), Reading (w), Taunton (w), Trowbridge (m), Twydall (j), Wellingborough (m), West Central (w), Wigmore and Rainham (m)

A warm welcome to 77 new members.

AU REVOIR

Since the summer we have made our good-byes to yet three more friends who have worked with or for Toc H.

First, to Colin Cuttall, who has now relinquished his 13 year ministry at All Hallows Church to return to the American continent 'the land of his adoption'. Colin has accepted a long-standing invitation to go back to Canada, and after preaching in Washington in connection with the Bicentenary, he is making for the Western Prairies where he served his apprenticeship over 30 years ago. We hope we will not entirely lose touch with him and we wish him well.

Jimmy Cliffe, that unmistakable Yorkshireman, is embarking on his second retirement. Jimmy, who has been a member of Toc H since 1931, took a part-time staff job in Lincolnshire after he retired from teaching. To Jimmy and his wife Joan we wish a very happy retirement.

Last but not least, Richard Jackson leaves the staff to take a postgraduate course in Community Development at Manchester University. He will be sadly missed but promises we'll still see him around. Good luck and all the best, Richard and Maggie.

THE SUNNY SUMMER

Tom Johnston, Public Relations Officer for the Glenrothes Development Corporation, tells the story of the fantastic six-week festival of fun that hit Glenrothes New Town this summer.

Nearly 10,000 children in Glenrothes New Town in Scotland have had the summer holiday of their lives.

'Never a dull day during the whole seven weeks of the schools' vacation,' said one happy mother. And she wasn't just referring to the exemplary conduct of the weather clerk.

It's true that there was scarcely a cloud in the Scottish sky throughout July and August, but it was the energetic effort of Toc H workers in Glenrothes, aided by local and overseas voluntary helpers, that really injected 'sunshine' into the holiday period for the children in the New Town.

Under what proved to be the appropriately optimistic title of 'The Sunny Summer Show', Mrs Lilian Ayres, Toc H community officer for East Scotland, and her band of helpers started a non-stop programme of entertainment on the first day of the school holidays and kept it moving till the very last day of the vacation.

Said Lilian, 'Numbers alone showed the effort was worthwhile. Our programme of organised games, sports, competitions, novelty entertainments and so on drew about 300 children a day while a separate series of events in the YM-YWCA premises at the Town Centre had an attendance of about 100 daily.

'A lot of children were regulars and never missed a day but, allowing for an estimated percentage turnover, we consider that close on 10,000 youngsters

took part in various events during the seven weeks' programme.'

Largely due to Toc H's own publicity machinery, the Glenrothes venture became known nationally and internationally. The Summer Activities Booklet drew considerable 'overseas aid' to the town. Young people from Spain, Argentina, France, USA, Sweden, Germany, Belgium and Italy flocked to Fife to help with the scheme and many others had to be turned away because the project was not big enough to absorb them.

An average of 12 people a week were accommodated in the church halls and local volunteers brought the staff up to 30. This made possible a half-day programme of sports, games and other activities on six of the open spaces with which Glenrothes is well endowed. Three areas operated each morning and three each afternoon. Some children moved with the operation to enjoy a full day's fun.

A highly popular feature throughout the Sunny Summer Show was a series of coach outings to seaside resorts in Fife and Angus and to the Commonwealth swimming pool at Edinburgh. It had been hoped to lay on coaches free but a restricted budget enforced a charge of 50p per head, for both adults and children. Obviously it was still considered a 'good buy' for an average of 120 youngsters and parents turned up for each trip.

Programmes of games and compet-

itions were organised on the beach. There was, clearly, a lot of juvenile appeal too, in such items as a fancy dress show for pets, a contest for the best-decorated contraption on wheels which produced an eye-catching parade of gaily festooned bikes, barrows, prams and even roller skates through the Town Centre shopping mall; a monster day during which the children were given cardboard boxes, paint and other materials to see who could produce the most impressive visitor from outer space — or the depths of Loch Ness!

Many of these events formed part of a concentration of activity each Wednesday on the grass area at the Town Centre where parents were encouraged to come along and watch their children at play. They did, too, in considerable numbers and a barbecue was run weekly for their benefit.

A pram race, a pie-eating contest, a competition to knit a mile of wool into squares that would make blankets for old people, a mini-Olympics, five-a-side football and many other events drew the crowds and one family of four, who took part in almost everything, earned themselves the top prize of a 15-minute flight over their home town donated by Glencair Aero Services Ltd, who operate an air taxi and freight service from Glenrothes Airfield.

Toc H and their helpers are enthusiastic about the success of the Sunny Summer Show. The co-operation among volunteers has led to the revival of a Toc H branch in the town and everyone is unanimous that SSS must be an annual event.

Tug-of-war with the Glenrothes Corporation against the playleaders — and a whole lot of water in between!



It's enough to make a horse laugh! Catherine Spence and her pony, Slainte-Mhah, gave a jumping demonstration during the summer fun.



SUNNY SUMMER SHOW

Photos by Crauford Tait



Animal Day at the summer fun: Stuart Dobbie proudly leads on Kimber, an Old English Sheep-dog, belonging to Toc H staff member, Lilian Ayres.



Among the activities was a 'decorated bicycle competition'. Nicholas Shackelton is seen here with Sigrid Thomann from Germany, who was one of the volunteers helping at the Sunny Summer Show.

Now the postmortem begins, to learn how to make it bigger and better in future. The number one problem, almost inevitably, is cash. This year's venture, launched at short notice after overtures from the local authority, left little time for fund-raising and donations were not as plentiful as might have been anticipated.

The Tullis Russell Paper Mills, always generous Toc H supporters, lived up to their reputation with a £200 hand-out and Glenrothes New Town Development Corporation contributed £50. But a letter appeal to industry and local authorities throughout the area boosted the total resources to only £320 for what had been planned as a £1200 budget.

Donations of premises and loans of equipment helped but projects involving transport – far and away the most costly item in the entire scheme – had to be curbed. Outings to farms, nature trails and other places of interest were dropped and the 50p-a-head charge was put on seaside trips.

Fife Regional Council, presumably feeling the economic pinch like most public bodies these days, declined to support the Sunny Summer Show financially and, perhaps most surprising of all, Kirkcaldy District Council, whose Leisure and Recreation Department mooted the scheme in the first place, have offered no help.

Lilian pointed out, 'They have not given a final answer yet though the scheme is over and done with. But we live in hope that they will yet contribute for the scheme has left us with a deficit of £180.'

On the more cheerful side, much of the equipment bought this year (hoopla rings, balls and so on) will be assets for future schemes. Parents, who eyed the

SSS with caution at the outset, were largely won over and offers of voluntary help for next year are so numerous that the project has no worries on that score.

To solve the cash problem fund-raising will begin this month to finance next summer's activities. After this year's event has been analysed by the helpers a meeting of organisations throughout the town will be convened to put plans for an enhanced scheme to them and enlist their aid. Personal approaches, instead of letters, will be made to industry and local authorities and it is hoped that the success of this summer's venture will persuade them that support is worthwhile. Appeals will also be made to grant-aiding bodies throughout Scotland.

Lilian, now a veteran in this type of venture since she organised similar entertainment for 20,000 children in Dumbarton last year, has this advice to offer any who contemplate schemes of this kind.

Is there a need? Try to assess the situation before you start and be sure there is a demand. Otherwise you can expend a great deal of effort and get very little response. New Towns seem to be good settings for this kind of thing.

Watch the trades holiday: During the two-week period when local industry is closed and a wholesale family exodus occurs, the scheme can die. We had to suspend some activities. Next year we shall organise two five-day camps at nearby venues for children not going off on a family vacation.

Food: There was a big demand for lunch-time snacks. For 15p a head we provided at the YMCA things like soup, cottage pie and sandwiches, so that child-

ren could 'stoke up' for the afternoon activities without going home. We sent a circular to tell parents about it.

Habits: Find out the most popular open spaces where children play and locate activities there. We had to move some of our schemes to areas habitually used by children and attendances immediately shot up.

Spin-off: There is a lot of beneficial spin-off from a scheme of this kind. We have a revived Toc H branch in Glenrothes, we have had reams of press and radio publicity (a D-J broadcast part of our last day's programme live), and an 'Uncle and Aunt Club' to help Gingerbread Group families is on the cards.

'Finally', added Lilian, 'there's a lot of satisfaction from a job well done. We have confounded the prophets of doom who predicted the collapse of our scheme after a couple of weeks – we are showing them how wrong they were with a photographic exhibition of the whole summer's activities in the Town Centre this month. And next year we are sure the Sunny Summer Show in Glenrothes will be twice as big and infinitely better and more varied.'

Footnote: Lilian, a keen parachutist, added a spectacular touch to the final event of the Sunny Summer Show. She and two fellow enthusiasts dropped in on the Town Centre barbecue from 5,500 feet. Lilian landed only eight feet from where the sausages were sizzling!

LETTERS

UNFAIR OSTRICH

The article on Islam carried in the August number of *Point Three* is usefully informative and an encouragement to think fairly. Your Leader rightly emphasises this but it is regrettable that in your final paragraph your enthusiasm has led you to stigmatise the Christian Church as acting as an ostrich.

It may be, I certainly do not know, that over the years some members of the Christian Church have had no interest in or understanding of other religions but I do know that it is on record that nearly 90 years ago Bishop Gore preaching a sermon on behalf of the Oxford Mission to Calcutta said, 'Christianity does not deprecate the good in Judaism, but supersedes it; and in like manner supersedes other religions. Granted that Mohammedanism preaches a living God, granted that Buddhism preaches a holy God; but Christianity preaches a God who is both holy and living, and declares that without holiness no man shall see the Lord. It supersedes other religions by including in a vaster and more complete whole the broken elements of truth which they possess.'

This is the voice of the living Christian Church, not the muffled cries of an ostrich. It is a voice which expresses the faith whereby and wherein Toc H was born and the faith which demands of each and every member of Toc H a full and final commitment to the true and living God.

George Liddle
London NW1

GLOWING PRAISE!

I would like to take the opportunity through your magazine of thanking Toc H and in particular Jim Waltham for all the hard work in organising the recent playscheme for the children of Crossfields Estate. In fact I have never known anyone work harder for the benefit of our estate which is one of those places built in the middle of nowhere, without shops, church, school, community buildings or anything else and which the council tends to forget exists.

The hard work and time which Mr Waltham put in, organising such a marvellous playscheme at relatively short notice is an inspiration to all of just what can be done if only one tries. Mr Waltham (or Jim as he prefers to be known) soon had everyone on the estate excited with his ideas and in the space of only five weeks we found that we had raised about £200.

The playscheme was indeed fantastic with trips to the sea-side and Delamere Forest, a fancy dress contest and Punch and Judy show for the young children, plus an inflatable bouncing contraption which all the children enjoyed.

On the last day there were sports and all the children got prizes. To round it all off, in the evening a disco was held in the marquee (which we had hired because, as I have mentioned, there are no facilities on the estate) and all the children received free pop and crisps.

I have heard that one lady on the estate was very poorly and that her son would have had to miss out on the trip to Delamere Forest because he had to help her to dress. Fortunately Jim got to know about this and first thing that morning one of Jim's volunteers, Andrea from the Toc H youth action group in Runcorn, went round to help this lady to dress and to do a little housework so that her boy would be able to go on the trip.

Jim has built a wonderful relationship on the estate and everyone here thinks the world of him and respects him. As for the children, they all hope that Jim will run a similar scheme next year, they all had such a great time — one which they will probably remember for years to come.

I would also like to thank the Toc H branches who contributed to the playscheme and also the Runcorn Toc H youth action group who donated £10 and gifts, some of which were raffled to raise money while others were awarded as prizes at the fancy dress concert.

I am only sorry that the residents of our estate did not think of some way of thanking Jim for all his trouble but at the time we were all so busy watching the children enjoying themselves. Thanks to Jim's example I know that two or three young people on our estate have already joined Toc H and have been on a young people's weekend somewhere in the Blackburn area. I heard they had a great time and made many new friends. I have since heard that a number of others have joined or are about to join and it may be just what our estate needs.

All I can say to close is that if everyone attached to Toc H is like Jim Waltham, what a marvellous organisation Toc H must be.

A grateful mother
Crossfields Estate, Eccles, Manchester

Jim Waltham writes to thank everyone who helped to make the playscheme a success, particularly Andrea Morrell, chairman of the Runcorn Toc H Youth Action Group, who volunteered as a full-time leader for the week, and Mrs Gaynor

Gorman, the playscheme treasurer. Also Gert and Bill Bull of the playscheme committee (who have now joined Toc H), and the Runcorn Toc H Youth Action Group. There are now many people on the estate asking about membership and four new members have just been welcomed to Toc H.

TOC H TOP TWENTY

In reply to 'Lockie' Lockwood's letter in the August edition of *Point Three*, she will be pleased to know that we in Barkingside Men's Branch always use one of the Toc H service sheets at our re-dedication service and always include the hymns *Out of many into one*, to the tune of 'Aberystwyth', by Tubby; also *O Joyful Light* by Barclay Baron.

Incidentally this service is always attended by the Mayor of Redbridge and after the service a reception is held in the Parish Hall, including entertainment and refreshments. This gives us an opportunity to thank all our many helpers during the year. The attendance is always in excess of 200.

Ron Reader
Ilford, Essex

TOC H TOP TWENTY

May I fully endorse the comments of 'Lockie' Lockwood in the August issue of *Point Three* with regard to the loss of hymns such as those of Barclay Baron from present-day services. When they were written they were new to us but we accepted them and sang them with great fervour. At recent Festivals in London I have been sorry that not one of these lovely hymns has been included.

In particular I would wish that *The Carpenter's Bench* by Tubby and George Moore could be revived. It is too beautiful to be lost in the oblivion of time.

Lilian Florance
Bridgwater, Somerset

TOC H HYMNS

I agree with 'Lockie' that while there should always be room in Toc H for modern music, if people wish to use an established Toc H service sheet, it should be used as near as possible complete.

Of the hymn *O Joyful Light* the compiler said 'No other hymn should be substituted, in the re-dedication portion of the Service'.

Ministers seeking popular substitutes should be warned: Ancient & Modern Revised contains one of Barclay Baron's best loved hymns at No 500, set to the tune 'Toc H'.

Skegg Blanchard
London SW1

THORSEN THE DANE

We feel very strongly about the possibility of Thorsen the Dane being allowed to enter our country. It will be our shame if Britain becomes the scene of his offensive attempt to degrade the figure of Christ. We hope that other branches will join in our protest by writing to the Home Secretary and to their own MP.

Ellis W Lewis
Hon Secretary, Newport Men's Branch,
Gwent

IN THE DRINK

I was horrified to see publication on page nine of July *Point Three* of two fellows sailing a GP14 'in strong winds off Beaumaris, in the Menai Straits' *without life-jackets*. Clothed as the crew are in sweaters and heavy clothing, I wouldn't fancy their chances in a capsized. Now don't write and tell me that the life-jackets are under their sweaters 'cause I won't accept it; or that the buoyancy tanks would keep the boat afloat whilst they were rescued. So do I bring my life-jacket with me when I 'forget computer dating and come to Port Penrhyn'? Perhaps you may consider it necessary to insert an appropriate message in the next edition of *Point Three* as I'm sure other readers with dinghy sailing experience will be quick to notice the madness of sailing in a dinghy, even if you are a competent yachtsman, without a life-jacket. As for doing this in the Menai Straits, it must be as suicidal as sailing small boats in the Thames Estuary.

Wally Jones
Rochford, Essex

SAVE IT!

I thought it might be useful to mention in *Point Three* that in order to help pensioners stock up for winter fuel if they have open fires, as some still do, I have found it possible to collect off-cuts of wood on building sites and to pass them on in sacks which I get from farmers. I

have found willing responses from those asked to help and such may be the case elsewhere, as a Toc H job.

Members have had a very pleasant summer evening sawing wood at the home of an elderly woman pensioner, and others will follow.

I would take this occasion to mention the great appreciation of your editing of *Point Three*, in matter and production, in every way.

A Cotswold Padre

ANNUAL REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP

Without wishing to enter into a protracted argument, I feel I must justify some points made in my letter, published in the May issue.

It was only after writing that letter that I received the Guide Notes accompanying the Branch Nominal Rolls. These notes are presumably issued with the authority of the Central Executive Committee, and shed some light on the procedure of membership review.

By my reading, it is still the responsibility of the branch executive (this includes District branches), and particularly the branch chairman, to review the branch membership.

The notes also include a definition of a member 'in good standing': 'A member in good standing is one who is *contributing to the life of the Movement to the best of their ability* (my italics) and who wishes to continue this commitment throughout the next year'.

Later in the notes, one of the questions put to the executive asks whether any member has been removed from the roll for any reason other than death, transfer or resignation. It continues: 'Has every effort been made to discuss the matter personally with the member?'

This can only be interpreted to mean that there *can* be other reasons for omitting a member's name. If this were so, it could only be a matter for sadness, but this would remain the responsibility of the executive. My contention was that this is a responsibility that should continue albeit hoping that it would rarely need to be exercised.

There are times, Sue Sutton, when it becomes necessary to make judgements on each other, whether we live in the Seventies, the Eighties or any other time.

One other matter for sadness is that there has grown up a membership of people who believe that they can 'contribute to the life of the Movement' *without* being 'judged worthy' by their fellow-

members. This surely does not easily fit into our principles of Fellowship and Fair Thinking.

Percy Bays
Exmouth, Devon

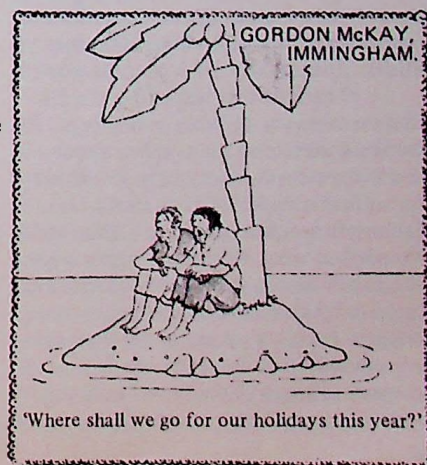
While Action for the Seventies firmly established the principle whereby an individual member makes his own commitment to Toc H for a further year by signing the branch roll, the responsibility for accounting for the membership shown on the previous year's roll still rests firmly with the branch executive. In most instances any difference will be accounted for by death, transfer or resignation, but there may well be occasions when for some very good reason a member's name should no longer be included, and the responsibility for making that decision will still, as formerly, rest with the branch executive.

Gilbert Francis
General Secretary

CHRISTMAS CARDS

My thanks, which I know are long overdue, to you for publishing my appeal in *Point Three* last year for old Christmas cards. The response was fantastic, cards arriving from as far as France, Germany, Belgium, and loads from various Toc H branches including Leicester, Oxford and London. To mention everyone I would want a whole page or more of *Point Three*. So could I beg a little bit of space to thank all and everyone concerned. I apologise for not writing before, but I am really only just getting all my correspondence up-to-date as I was out of circulation from December to March being ill with pneumonia and pleurisy.

Mrs Lilian Atkinson
Bournemouth and Christchurch
Joint Branch



INSIGHT

Presenting a new four-part series on 'The Jesus of History' by the Rev Dr Paul Badham, who offers some fascinating and soundly researched insights into Christ's life, miracles and temptation, resurrection and divinity.

After a brilliant academic career at Oxford, Cambridge and Birmingham Universities, Dr Badham now lectures in theology at St David's University College, Lampeter. His book 'Christian Beliefs about Life after Death' is published this month by Macmillan.

Part One: The Teacher

Because Christianity claims to be an historical religion based on the life and teaching of its founder, it is important to know what Jesus was like and what he actually taught. To find the answer to these questions we must turn to historical research into Christian origins, and ask ourselves what this research tells us about Jesus himself and his original message.

In any historical inquiry into the distant past, certainty of a scientific type is impossible and equally competent scholars will come to different interpretations of the data. Consequently some argue that we can claim to know very little about the historical Jesus. In terms of what can be said with 100% confidence this is indeed the case, but in history such certainty is very rare about any event of the past, and historians have to be content not with certainty, but with what seems to them the most probable reconstruction of what actually happened.

In the case of Jesus I would argue that we have good grounds for thinking we can be confident of the main outlines of his distinctive teaching. After all, in looking at Jesus we are looking at the best documented figure of the ancient world. We possess four accounts of some of his teaching and of the events leading up to his crucifixion, and these four accounts were each written between 30 and 70 years after his death. This is far better documentation than for any one else of that time, including the Roman Emperors. Moreover the manuscript evidence for the New Testament text is older and more reliable than for any other ancient work.

We are further helped by the distinctive character of Jesus's teaching. People often like to point out that parallels to practically everything Jesus said can be found in the writings of other Rabbis of that time or earlier. This is true enough, but what indicates a man's originality is not simply the phrases he uses but the overall balance of his teaching. And certainly Jesus's teaching as a whole was radically different from the generally accepted religious and cultural tradition of his day.

Seventy years ago the great scholar Adolf Harnack summed up the essence of Jesus's teaching as *the fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of Man, and the importance of the individual*. This seems a good starting point, for each of these three aspects of Jesus's teaching seem distinctive of his thought.

FATHERHOOD OF GOD

Jesus taught that we should look on God as a loving father with whom we should seek to enter into a personal relationship of love and trust. This was a radical change from earlier Jewish teaching where the dominant understanding of God was in terms of kingship, authority, and legislative rule. The language of father was used in earlier religious teaching, but only in terms of an authoritarian father-figure. To avoid this misunderstanding of what he meant by the Fatherhood of God, Jesus used the Aramaic word for 'daddy' as the title of God, and in his parables he compared God to an utterly loving father welcoming home a returning prodigal, or as a shepherd going out to search for a lost sheep. So the first distinctive element in Jesus's teaching was that the dominant characteristic of God is self-giving love, a love like that of a father to a child in the ideal human family.

BROTHERHOOD OF MAN

The second aspect of Jesus's teaching follows logically from this, for if God is the loving father of all, then we his children should seek to love as members of a family, each concerned in love for the welfare of all. This was a radical break from the caste-ridden, class-conscious, rationalistic and self-righteous ethos of the religion of his day. Jesus taught a Gospel of universal forgiveness and brotherhood, he made outcasts like tax-gatherers or Samaritans the heroes of his parables. He taught that sinners are not to be shunned but converted. He shocked his contemporaries by his table-fellowship with the outcasts of society, and by his including even women among his disciples. This aspect of his teaching is soft-pedalled, even by the Gospel writers, yet it is clear from Luke 8, that Jesus was always accompanied not only by 12 men but also by women disciples: Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna and others. We may recall too that when all the men forsook him and fled, the women disciples followed Jesus to the foot of the cross.

The complete abandonment of racial, sectarian, class and sex barriers in the early church was seen as a radical threat to the foundations of society. The early opponents of Christianity claimed that such teaching was 'turning the world upside down', and we know alas how soon such barriers came to be resurrected within the Christian Church. Nevertheless even St Paul, in summing up the consequences of Christian discipleship, could say 'Now that you have faith, you are Sons of God — gone is the distinction between Jew and

Greek, slave and freeman, male and female, you are all one in Christ Jesus'.

THE INDIVIDUAL

The third characteristic of Jesus's teaching was a new understanding of the demands of God upon men. The religious tradition he had inherited saw religion as something outward — obedience to a detailed code of religious law covering every imaginable human situation. Jesus seems to have cut through this mass of legislation by pointing out that the purpose behind the whole structure of religious law was the encouragement of love toward God and Man.

'You shall love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength, and love your neighbour as yourself.' This remark was not original to Jesus, being simply a combination of two Old Testament texts, yet what Jesus did was to give this principle a new priority. Consequently he criticised the religious leaders of his day, arguing that although they kept every least regulation they had forgotten the spirit behind the law and omitted to follow the central command to display justice, mercy and good-will in their dealings with their fellow-men.

Jesus insisted that the only purpose to religious law was to benefit mankind. That purpose became perverted when laws were observed for their own sake, without regard to human need. Thus Jesus saw the good of Sabbath observance, yet resisted the hardening of this ideal into a law, which forbade even good works on the Sabbath. Man's needs must come first, taught Jesus. 'The Sabbath Laws were made for man's benefit, not man for the benefit of the Sabbath.' Always Jesus sought to put the welfare of the individual above the demands of a rigorist legalism, and taught his followers to do the same. We decide what is right or wrong not on the basis of religious law, but on the basis of what is the most loving thing to do in each particular case.

THE KINGDOM

A fourth element in Jesus's teaching was that of the Kingdom of God. Here his own teaching is much disputed. Some scholars think he shared the apocalyptic world view of his contemporaries and looked for a dramatic divine intervention into human history. Others believe Jesus's own teaching is best expressed in his parables where he speaks of the Kingdom of Heaven as something inward, either in the heart of the individual, or in the midst of the new community of his followers. I personally believe the more spiritual interpretation of Jesus's parables of the Kingdom is the more characteristic of his own teaching and would agree that Jesus taught that we enter the Kingdom of Heaven when we dedicate ourselves to obedience to God's will, and enter a personal relationship with God, which leads on to a life of love and service in the world.

POINT THREE CHRISTMAS COMPETITION



All you budding artists and photographers! We're going to have another *Point Three* Christmas competition!

This year we want you to submit a Christmas front cover for the December magazine. The theme is simply 'Christmas' so you can take whatever aspect you like — from snow scenes to Santa Claus to Christmas pudding.

It's open to everyone and we are looking for the most striking piece of work — so all you kids, you have just as much chance of winning as the adults!

Paintings, sketches, line-drawings, photographs are all acceptable, but:

i) it must suit the proportions of the front cover ie $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$ (or for

example children painting can use $16\frac{1}{2} \times 23\frac{1}{2}$ etc).

ii) only one colour paint/gem marker etc can be used (or you can use black ink on coloured paper). Similarly only photos suitable for two-colour printing.

iii) write your name, age and address in soft pencil on the back of your paper.

iv) pack your entry with stiff card board and send it by 29 October to 'Point Three Christmas Competition', Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

The competition will be judged by the magazine's designer Spike Hill and the lucky winner will receive a £5 book token.

WHAT ABOUT LIVING IN A TOCH MARK?

Are you — or your son or daughter — looking for accommodation in London, Manchester, Liverpool or Swindon?

Perhaps you know of people who are going to college, who would like to live in a friendly, comfortable home. A Toc H Mark could well be the answer. You would have a single or multiple-bedded room, breakfast and an evening meal, all provided at a very reasonable price (ranging from £11 - £18 per week, depending on the type of room and location of the Mark).

Marks are not mere hostels — there is always some Toc H activity to interest you. Thousands of our membership first met Toc H by living in a Mark. Addresses and phone numbers are in the Toc H diary. Contact the warden at the Mark, or Harry Mills, Marks and Properties Adviser, at Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT (Wendover 623911).

DIMENSIONS A NEW QUARTERLY

Starting this month, a new quarterly magazine is to be produced by a small group of members. Although *Dimensions* is to be an independent publication, the thinking behind it is to provide members of Toc H, and others, with a vehicle for discussion of various topics of concern. The first issue will include an article on the theology of Martin Luther King, a Marxist comment on 'Welfare', an appeal for the early ordination of women entitled 'Why are we waiting', and other contributions on 'Statistics', 'Hong Kong', and some poetry. Future editions will contain items from Alec Dickson (founder of VSO and CSV), Sir Robert Tredgold (Honorary Commissioner for Toc H Rhodesia) and other well known names in Toc H, such as Iain Fraser and Alec Churcher.

Edited by Elisabeth and David, Worth, Carol Vielba, Richard Lowe and John Mitchell, the first issue is available free, while stocks last from *Dimensions*, Kyrle House, Edde Cross Street, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 7BZ. Thereafter annual subscription will be £1.50, or 40p per individual copy.

■ In Barnoldswick, Yorkshire, Toc H took part in a combined effort with other local organisations to raise money for the local hospital minibus. A bazaar, coffee and tombola raised over £200.

■ Crewkerne Branch, Somerset, invite neighbouring branches to join them in their service of rededication at South Street Methodist Church, Crewkerne on 1 November at 6.30 pm. Parking outside.

■ In July the Leeds District raised £300 at a garden party for the mentally handicapped of Rutland Lodge. There were stalls, refreshments and singing, not to mention ladies' football teams!

■ Also in July, Holland-on-Sea Toc H entertained Woodford, Loughton and Highams Park branches for the day. Coffee was served in the garden of Mrs Ena Wells and tea was later provided by Holland-on-Sea members.

■ In Bournemouth plans are afoot for a new Cheshire Home and complex. The branches in the Wessex District have always been associated with the Parkstone Home and the Bournemouth and Christchurch Joint Branch has shown interest in the new venture by holding a coffee morning and bring-and-buy sale which raised £50 for the Building Fund.

■ Wall Heath Women's Branch, in the West Midlands, recently donated a seat to the local old people's home to celebrate the Jubilee. Members of the council attended and the seat was dedicated by the Rev Donald Anderson.

■ Criccieth Branch write of their many activities which include organising a concert during Carnival Week, taking folks from a local home for the elderly on a coach trip and helping with the Gwynedd Camp which provides holidays for children from Liverpool.

■ Congratulations to Coney Hall Branch, Kent, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this month.

■ Conway Toc H held a very successful flag week in June, the proceeds going to local Toc H work and to the Family Purse. A record sum of £59.32 was collected by Conway Branch member Barry Johns.

■ Stowmarket Women's Branch arranged an afternoon's outing for people who have not been feeling too well. They went to Wivenhoe, Essex, where they visited a Toc H member's garden, and then went on to Brightlingsea. Just the tonic!

NEWSPOINT

Photo: Scott Shaw



A very special wedding for 'Point Three': Sue Sutton, secretary in the editorial office, married Peter Gardner on 11 September. Sue will continue to work on the magazine – but it's 'Mrs Gardner' now! Our best love and congratulations to the happy pair.

DOR KNAP CHANGES

Mary Edwards
Hon Secretary, Dor Knap Committee

From 1 January our charge for a Friday evening – Sunday afternoon weekend will be £8.50 per person; for mid-week school parties it will be £17 per person and for a full-week booking £24.50 per person. Readers will note that this is a small increase on the 1976 charges but we are sure you will readily appreciate from your own domestic housekeeping the reason for the increase and we know that you will still consider a stay at Dor Knap to be good value for money.

To commemorate the Jubilee, Honiton, Devon, branches gave a seat to the town.

Photo: Richard Carpenter



YOUTH GROUPS

Several Toc H youth groups are emerging in the North Wales and North West Region: they started with two Lancashire youth action groups and are spreading. On Merseyside there is now a very active group based on Runcorn. Its most lively members are aged between 17 and 20 and all those over 16 have joined the Movement as individual members. This group is busily fund raising, mainly for multiple sclerosis victims (one of its keenest members is confined to a wheelchair), and is becoming well known locally. On 17 July they organised a hot pot supper, dance and cabaret in the Castlefields Community Centre which attracted about 150 people. Also on Merseyside they have a group of more than a dozen schoolboys and girls in Skelmersdale gradually being involved in forms of community work in their neighbourhood. These new young members and associates have set up a small liaison team to co-ordinate their activities within the Region and they are bursting with ideas! It is hoped that older members will give them full support wherever they meet them: the whole trend may be significant for the future.

DIARIES

1977 diaries are now available from Headquarters – and please note, all who were worried last year, that we have *not* dropped the mention of Tubby's birthday and other special Toc H dates! 'Special dates' are in fact listed on page 32. We have included them in the introduction instead of on their appropriate pages for the good reason of saving money. We can actually cut the cost of your diary by several pence this way.

ALL HALLOWS NEWS

WELCOME

As many readers will already know, the appointment of the new Vicar of All Hallows was announced by the Bishop of London in August. He is Canon Peter Delaney, Precentor and Residentiary Canon of Southwark Cathedral. We look forward to giving him a warm welcome to the parish as soon as he is able to come, but, not surprisingly, he is already heavily committed for the next few months. The date of his Induction will therefore be early in the New Year. He has been in Southwark for a little over three years, and before that spent four years at the University Church of Christ the King, Gordon Square, London WC1. Bishop John Daly is taking charge at All Hallows during the first part of the interregnum.

TUBBY'S MEMORIAL

The recumbent figure of Tubby, fashioned with so much loving care by Cecil Thomas, is now in place in All Hallows. We are delighted to announce that Bishop Cuthbert Bardsley has accepted an invitation to dedicate it on Saturday, 11 December, at 3 pm.

A Service of Thanksgiving will be held, designed by Bishop John Daly and Bishop Bardsley. Admission by ticket (no charge): apply to Mrs G M Culwick, All Hallows by the Tower, Byward Street, London EC3R 5BJ; with stamped addressed envelope, please. There will be a retiring collection.

After the service you are invited to stay and meet your friends in the church. Tea and soft drinks will be provided but bring your own grub.

VIGIL

There will be a 24-hour Vigil at All Hallows for the World Chain of Light from 9 pm on Saturday 11 December to 9 pm on Sunday 12 December, led by South East Regional Staff Padre 'Polly' Perkins. A group of us will spend the whole weekend at Crutched Friars House to form the nucleus of the Vigil, and to enjoy each other's company before, during and after the Vigil. We hope many friends will join us at All Hallows at any time during the 24 hours.

If you would like to come and stay the weekend or take part in the Vigil, or would like further details, please contact me: Penny Green, at the South East Regional Office, 42 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AL, (01-709 0472).

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In February: Derek A Stapley (Acton & Garden Village)

In April: Kenneth G Chivers (Saltford), Winifred Harvey (RHHI), Herbert J Morris (Chirk), William A Ward (South East Hants District)

In May: Henry Harris (Camborne)

In June: Reginald G Brookes (Felpham), Capt Donald B Carter (Charmouth), Rev George W Daughlish (Inner London District), Harry Dickson (Kirkby-in-Ashfield), Catherine L Lawson (Rhyl), Iris M Page (Darlington Central), Frank Seaward (Hayes), Ernest Smith (North London District)

In July: May Baker (RHHI), Reginald G Griffiths (Croydon), Frank D Guest (Nethererton), John R Hillyer (West Derby), Frederick Lock (Clacton), Alfred T Pond (Stow on the Wold), John J Carter-Sargent (New River District), Paul H Steele (Westminster), Florence Thomas (Deeside) Ida Povall (Deeside)

In August: Reginald H Bettany (Honiton), John W Davies (Chingford), George L A Hanns (Hatherleigh)

We give thanks for their lives.

PLEASE NOTE

Would branch secretaries kindly send notification of the death of members to George Dixon, The Registrar, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT — rather than to the Editor. Thank you.

WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT VIGIL

As has become the custom over recent years a full 24-hour Vigil will be maintained at Dor Knap on 11 and 12 December 1976.

In addition to the maintenance of the Vigil some four corporate devotional acts are held during the Vigil. This is not however a 'retreat' and there are ample opportunities for discussion, walking, relaxation, or for being quiet according to one's own wishes. It is hoped to obtain a wide representation from across the country, and those interested in receiving further information are asked to contact George Lee, Toc H Centre, 24 Grove Avenue, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9RU.

PRAYER AND TOC H

From John Hull, Headquarters Padre

It is the opinion of many in Toc H that prayer works. Over the years this has been evident in all sorts of ways, and has been confirmed in recent months when I have sought opinion about the future of Toc H and prayer. In short, we need as much prayer and thought as we can get.

Many of you will be familiar with the Bordon Company, its origins and aims. It started in 1956 at Bordon in Hampshire, where a few Toc H members met in common concern that the root of Toc H is in Christian faith and experience. The fellowship has extended to the present day when many more people than those original few have adopted a daily discipline of prayer, reading a selected passage from the Bible, a short period of silence, and also the practical application of this as seeing each day as an opportunity for service in the spirit of the insight gained. The last thing required was to see the Bordon Company as a sort of spiritual elite, and now many are convinced that the time has come to widen the concept and share the ideals with as many people as possible. This is felt by all members of the Bordon Company to whom I have spoken, and many others who have never been among that number.

From now on, the Newsletter which the Bordon Company has sent round three times a year, will be published in *Point Three*. It will still be sent in the usual way to those who prefer this. The Bible Reading Fellowship Notes will also be sent to people who want them (75p a year) but they can also be obtained from your local church. Published also will be a list of helpful books, and pointers and suggestions of subjects for prayer and thought.

It is recognised that people do have different attitudes to prayer; some find it easier than others. This does not necessarily make them any better. I always enjoy the story of the man who used to sit in church at any old time of the day. He didn't appear to be doing anything, just sitting there. One day some-

one asked him the question, 'What on earth do you just sit there for?', to which he replied, 'Well, I just sits and looks at 'Im and He just looks at me'.

Many of you might go in for more sophisticated methods than that. Our prayers and thoughts are often very personal ones, yet I am sure that many of us can be strengthened by knowing that others are trying to do just the same thing in different ways. At Headquarters, we say prayers at 10.25 am. I mention that time of day because many of you might feel able to set aside 5 minutes before coffee to be with us in thought and prayer. Daily intercessions take place at All Hallows, for instance, and I hope that we can link all these things together. It is my belief that the future of Toc H depends on this, and this is why we want to make these things known as widely as possible, both to members of Toc H and to our many friends. I am hopeful that many of you will see the sense of this.

In the past the Bordon Company has organised Quiet Days and Quiet Weekends. There will be a Quiet Weekend at Dor Knap next Palm Sunday (Friday 1 - Sunday 3 April 1977) but it would be nice to think that there will be Quiet Days and Quiet Weekends organised in different parts of the country for a Region, an Area or a District, because I believe many feel the need for such an experience, and because Toc H needs this sort of perspective. If we are giving out of ourselves the whole time, we need an opportunity to take something in.

I hope you don't think this will mean there will be more and more people walking about with blank expressions on their faces. I think it will have a positive effect and that more people will join Toc H because of it, in spite of what some may think. We must never deny our foundation in the Christian faith.

It is my hope and the hope of many of us that every member of Toc H will take five minutes during the day to be with us in whatever way is practical for them. Look out for the information as it appears — but you can start now if you like by giving us a thought at 10.25 am.

WORLD PEACE

John Hull, Headquarters Padre

The Week of Prayer for World Peace this year takes place from 17 - 24 October.

The theme prayer is well known to us because it is the prayer of St Francis of Assisi: 'Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace . . .'

You can obtain fuller information from your local church, or from the Regional staff.

I urge you all to take part where you can. Prayer is the one positive action we can take to further the cause of peace where in other ways we can feel so helpless.

Shop Early for Christmas

Toc H Diary

The 1977 Diary has all the usual essential information for every Toc H member and friend: including useful addresses, the Ceremony of Light, a history of the Movement, financial facts, special Toc H dates, plus maps, metric measures and other general information.

Bound in leather, symbol in gold

Without pencil 50p each copies
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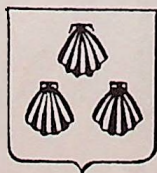
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SMALL ADS

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 3p a word (minimum 30p) to Point Three magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks. Telephone: 0296 623911



Bruges, Belgium. Hotel Jacobs (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel. Quiet situation. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only. Mr Jules Lietaert, Hotel Jacobs, Baliestraat 1, Bruges 8000. Telephone: (050) 398 31/32.

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HJ.

In W Germany this year? Looking for a comfortable hotel, where language is no problem? Situated in beautiful, woody countryside? Quiet relaxing atmosphere, good food, comfortable beds. Then try us. Near the Lorelei, between Rhine and Mosel. Call or write: The Management, Hotel Hungenroth Hof, 3 Rhein-moselstr, 5401 Hungenroth, W Germany. Tel: Pfalz 579 or in BAOR 06746-579.

Hotel Lybeer has welcomed Toc H parties and individuals since 1945. Centrally situated. Bed and breakfast. Madame Krista Vanhove, Hotel Lybeer, Korte Vulderstraat 31, Bruges, Belgium.

